

OLC 69-0101

4 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Ed Braswell, Chief of Staff, Senate
Armed Services Committee, Re S. 782

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1. [] and I called on Ed Braswell, Chief of Staff, Senate Armed Services Committee, to advise him of our concern over the reintroduction of the Ervin bill (S. 782 - Constitutional Rights of Federal Employees). We made the following points:

a. the bill in its present form, identical to the version which passed the Senate by overwhelming vote in the last session, presents the most serious problems to certain security safeguards and management procedures which we feel the Agency must maintain if the Director is to discharge his statutory responsibilities;

b. we are reluctant to stir things up at this stage lest we be accused of "lobbying" but wished to ensure that all proper and feasible measures are examined to exempt the Agency from the more troublesome provisions of this bill;

c. one course would be to seek either specific or general exemptions from the application of the bill, and another would be an amendment authorizing the President to grant exemptions for certain agencies or categories of personnel involved in sensitive activities;

d. because we want to take care not to move too rapidly and stir things up on the one hand, or allow the bill to slip by without adequately presenting our case on the other, we would appreciate Mr. Braswell taking a discreet reading on its prospects.

85-70-7

2. Mr. Braswell expressed the view that it would be hard to get most senior senators, especially influential ones such as Stennis or Russell to "take on" their good friend Senator Ervin in a major confrontation. Our initial effort should probably be to attempt to reason further with Senator Ervin himself and get him to better understand our problem and perhaps find a compromise which would serve our purposes without appearing to be a public retreat or defeat for Senator Ervin. Regarding timing, Braswell said one question was whether Committee hearings would be held and the matter referred to various departments for comment, or whether these steps would be dispensed with in view of the fact that they had already been covered during the last Congress. Braswell said he would look into this also and keep us advised, adding he would appreciate a blind, backup memo summarizing our main points. This we promised to provide.

3. In parting, Mr. Braswell commented that the Committee had still not completed its organizational arrangements and he could not predict when they would wish a briefing from the Director, but we should expect intensive questioning on Soviet ABM and ICBM development, since the Sentinel issue was of major concern to many Committee members.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc:

Original - Subject

- 1 - Chrono
- 1 - Mr. Bannerman
- 1 - Mr. Houston

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OLC/JMM:jmd